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BUREAU OF
INTELLIGENCE
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CURRENT
ANALYSES

(U) CHINA: DENG XIAOPING PUSHES AHEAD WITH
CONSOLIDATION OF US-CHINESE RELATIONS

(c) Summary

A practitioner of Realpolitik, Deng Xiaoping
perceives

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A year ago, when US-China relations were still
in the doldrums over Taiwan and technology transfer-
related disputes, Deng was the first Chinese leader
to start talking to visitors again about the common
security interests of Beijing and Washington.

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Deng's Political Makeup

(U) Deng is not revered in China as was Mao,
nor held in great affection as was Zhou En-lai, but
he is no doubt the most admired man in the country
because of his vigor, tenacity, integrity, and
candor. Above all, however, it is his no-nonsense
practicality that has made him a popular leader among
the Chinese, who are still recovering from their
ideological binge with Mao.

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(U) Deng was purged twice and most of his colleagues and friends were criticized, sent into political disgrace, or killed during the Cultural Revolution. One of Deng's sons was thrown from a fourth floor window and remains a paraplegic. Thus, Deng understands the tragedy of utopian and grandiose visions relentlessly pursued. His domestic opponents today are not visionary Maoists but party and military stalwarts, who give greater priority to centralized control and social order, as well as bureaucrats throughout the system who feel threatened by his reform program.

(C) Soon to turn 80 years old, Deng is increasingly conscious that time is his most formidable adversary. Although he shows few signs of ill health, his work pace has slowed somewhat, and he will be the effective leader of China for only another 2-4 years. This is meager time in which to consolidate his succession arrangements, gain domestic acceptance of his party and economic reforms, and place US-China relations on a stable footing.

(S/NF/NC/OC) Opposition to Opening to US

The difficulties in Sino-US relations in recent years probably have left Deng with his share of political bruises. Solid evidence of opposition to Deng's US policy is sparse, [REDACTED]

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Moreover, despite the improvement in Sino-US relations over the past year, [REDACTED]

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